

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Tani Akira )  
S.N.: TBA ) Examiner: UNKNOWN  
Filed: ) Art Unit: UNKNOWN  
For: **EASILY CONNECTED AND SEPA-** )  
**RATED COLUMNAR COUPLER** )  
**STRUCTURE** )  
\_\_\_\_\_  
)

Box Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application prior to examination thereof in the manner indicated below.

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**  
**(37 C.F.R. §1.111)**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1 and 3-7 to eliminate multi-dependent claims and to render the claims consistent with US practice.

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

Please substitute the abstract with the enclosed. The abstract is being substituted from the original translation in order to render it in one paragraph form with less than 150 words.